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The “Forward” section of the Journal of Transnational American Studies is designed as a special “sneak preview”: it offers readers a chance for a first look at excerpts of newly published or forthcoming works that feature transnational work in American studies. This way we can offer cutting-edge scholarship online, in such a way that the new work can itself circle the globe. It is marvelously exciting to be able to present in our debut issue three outstanding examples of research in transnational American studies: Gordon H. Chang’s introductory analysis of Asian American art from Asian American Art: A History, 1850–1970; Mary L. Dudziak’s narrative of civil rights legend Thurgood Marshall’s contribution to nation-building in Kenya from Exporting American Dreams: Thurgood Marshall’s African Journey; and Micol Seigel’s analysis of internationalism and African American performance (and performativity) from Uneven Encounters: Making Race and Nation in Brazil and the United States. We are extremely grateful to the publishers of these books, respectively Stanford University Press, Oxford University Press, and Duke University Press, for kindly granting us permission to include these extracts.

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